How to use the "Express Selection" feature in the Data Query

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The text below applies only to Legacy UN Comtrade

Express Selection has similar functionality as Basic Selection in Data Query menu with the exception that codes are entered directly or can be selected from lookup tables.

In the Express Selection, however, there are two additional optional features, Step 0 and Step 3. The former allows for loading saved queries and the latter saves the selected query and enables notification. For further details on enabling notification see the following article on Query profile notification. Note that both optional features are available only to Comtrade subscribers.

Notes:
- The empty value in the text box is considered as "All" value. It applies for Trade Flow as well. If you don't select anything, it will be considered as 'All'.
- Each item could be saved to favorites by clicking the appropriate button

Classification

Choose the appropriate classification for the commodities. For further explanation of which classification to use see article 10149 in Comtrade Knowledge Base. In general, use older classifications (SITC, Rev. 1 and SITC, Rev. 2) to obtain long time-series and use the recent classification (HS2002 and HS1996) for more detailed information.

In the main selection, Step 1., enter Commodities, Reporters, Partners, Years and Trade Flow codes. See below for wildcard usage and definitions:

Commodities

1. Options AG1, AG2, AG3, AG4, AG5 and AG6. These options will give you respectively all 1-digit codes (AG1), all 2-digit codes (AG2), etcetera. Therefore, Option AG2 is equivalent to option DD of the Comtrade For Windows application
2. Option LF. LF stands for leaf. This will give you in case of the SITC classification all the basic 4- or 5-digit commodity codes
3. Option ?. You can use the question mark as a position holder. This means that if you ask '??' this would be equivalent to AG2 and '???' is equivalent to AG3. Furthermore, you have the possibility of requesting, for instance, 2?? which is equivalent to asking 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704 to 2799 if those commodity codes would all exist. Therefore, the question mark gives you a lot of flexibility in requesting commodity codes. Moreover, please note that you can ask as many codes with question marks as you like (in CFW you could only use one wildcard at a time)
4. Option *. The star '*' means "all possible codes". For instance, 27* means all codes starting with 27, which would be 27, 2701, 270111, 2702, 270211, etcetera.

It is also possible to type in the commodity and country by name. For the following query see the figure below. The query would include:
Commodities = petroleum
Reporter = China
Partner = World
Year = 2004

In the Advanced Items Tab, there are two additional options: Filter Trade Value and Sort Order. For a detailed explanation on this feature see http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradekb/Knowledgebase/Aggregation-Option-in-Basic-Express-Selection. The default is All Trade Values and the result is sorted in the following sequence: Year, Trade Flow, Reporter, Commodity, and Trade Value. See picture below:

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